

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 EB-03 AID-10

EUR-10 L-02 ACDA-10 MC-02 SAJ-01 IGA-02 OMB-01 /083 W

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P 301410Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8931

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 NAIROBI 7372

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR MASS PFOR KE US

SUBJECT: KENYAN DECISION TO SEEK ADDITIONAL ARMS; KENYAN
INTEREST IN US. AIRCRAFT AND MILITARY TRAINING

REFS: (A) STATE 167699 (NOTAL)

(B) NAIROBI 6893 (NOTAL)

".:.) STATE 160682 (NOTAL)

(D) NAIROBI 6545 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: KENYAN DEFENCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS REAFFIRMED
TO EMBASSY KENYAN INTEREST IN MILITARY TRAINING IN US AND EXPRESSED
INITIAL INTEREST IN ACQUISITION OF F-5E AIRCRAFT IF FINANCING
FROM SOME EXTERNAL SOURCE BECOMES AVAILABLE. HE ALSO INFORMED
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US OF PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S RELUCTANT DECISION TO STRENGTHEN AND

MODERNIZE KENYA'S ARMED FORCES IN ORDER TO OFFSET THREAT POSED BY SOMALIA'S CONTINUING ACQUISITION OF SOPHISTICATED SOVIET WEAPONS. WHILE KENYA HAS INITIALLY APPROACHED GREAT BRITAIN FOR ARMS ASSISTANCE, DEFENCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL WARNED THAT IF WEST (INCLUDING US) UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PRESERVE "ISLAND" OF MODERATION WITHIN EASTERN AFRICA REPRESENTED BY ETHIOPIA AND KENYA, KENYA MAY BE OBLIGED TO ACCEPT SOVIET ARMS WHICH HAVE BEEN OFFERED AND REJECTED ON SEVERAL PAST OCCASIONS. WE BLIEVEMODERATE BUILD-UP OF KENYAN ARMED FORCES TO REDRESS ARMS IMBALANCE WITH NEIGHBORS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO REGIONAL STABILITY. WHILE UK WILL HOPEFULLY SHOULDER ASSISTANCE BURDEN, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO HELP IN MODEST WAY IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN KENYA AS WELL AS CONTINUED US NAVY ACCESS TO PORT OF MOMBASA. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND PROMPT DEPARTMENT ACTION TO

OBTAIN PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION MAKING KENYA ELIGIBLE FOR FMS CASH SALES. THIS WOULD ENABLE US TO BE RESPONSIVE TO KENYAN MILITARY TRAINING NEEDS AS WELL AS TO POSSIBLE FUTURE REQUESTS TO PURCHASE REASONABLE QUANTITIES OF US ARMS ON CASH BASIS. END SUMMARY.

1. DCM CALLED AT KENYAN DEFENCE MINISTRY AUGUST 27 TO BRIEF PERMSEC KIEREINI ON MILITARY TRAINING POSSIBILITIES IN US (PER REF A) IF KENYA IS DECLARED ELIGIBLE FOR FMS. KIEREINI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION AND SAID THAT TRAINING GIVEN EARLIER THIS YEAR TO KENYA NAVY OFFICER AT US NAVAL WAR COLLEGE HAD PROVED SO WORTHWHILE THAT NAVY HOPES TO SEND ANOTHER OFFICER TO SAME COURSE IN NEAR FUTURE. IN VIEW LIMITED NUMBER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR KENYAN MILITARY OFFICERS IN UK, GOK PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ANY ARMY AND AIR FORCE TRAINING WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN US. IN RESPONSE THIS QUESTION AS TO WHETHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO DEFRAY THESE TRAINING COSTS, DCM DREW ON GUDANCE CONTAINED REF C AND SAID IT WAS MOST UNLIKELY, BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS, THAT MAP GRANTS OR FMS CREDIT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO KENYA AT PRESENT.

2. AFTER DISCUSSION OF KENYAN MILITARY TRAINING NEEDS, KIEREINI MENTIONED GROWING KENYAN CONCERN OVER THREAT POSED TO KENYA'S
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SECURITY BY SOMALIA'S CONTINUED ACQUISITION OF SOVIET ARMS, THREAT WHICH IS COMPOUNDED BY EVIDENCE OF MILITARY COLLABORATION BETWEEN SOMALIA AND UGANDA. AS RESULT OF THIS THREAT, PRESIDENT KENYATTA HAD FINALLY RECLUCTANTLY AGREED THAT KENYA, DESPITE PRIORITY HE PREFERS TO GIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MUST ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL MODERN WEAPONRY. MAJOR PROBLEM WAS TO FIND WAY OF FINANCING ARMS ACQUISITIONS; HOWEVER, BRITISH HAVE INDICATED

SOME WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE CONCESSIONARY FINANCING FOR THIS PURPOSE AND DISCUSSIONS ARE NOW UNDERWAY. BRITISH-KENYAN ARMS TALKS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED TO US BY BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER (REF B).

3. KIEREINI SAID THAT KENYAN AIR FORCE IED CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO BRITISH AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE WHICH WOULD BE SATISFACTORY COUNTER TO SOMALI THREAT AND THAT ONLY MIRAGE OR F-5W AIRCRAFT WOULD FILL THE BILL. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT KENYATTA HAD DECIDED TO LEAVE IT UP TO BRITISH TO APPROACH US OR FRANCE ON THIS SUBJECT. DCM COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY UNLIKELY BRITISH WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE CONCESSIONARY FINANCING FOR PURCHASES OF US OR FRENCH AIRCRAFT. RE F-5E, KIEREINI SAID HE WOULD SOON BE MAKING OFFICIAL REQUEST TO EMBASSY FOR RELEASE OF RESTRICTED TECHNICAL DATA. (REF D REPORTED RECENT NORTHROP F-5E SALES PRESENTATION TO KENYAN AIR FORCE.)

4. KIEREINI THEN COMMENTED WITH SOME BITTERNESS THAT INSUFFICIENCY OF CONCESSIONARY FINANCING BY WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR ARMS PURCHASES MAY EVENTUALLY FORCE KENYA AS WELL AS ETHIOPIA TO TURN TO SOVIET UNION FOR ARMS.

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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HE POINTED OUT THAT BOTH PRESENT AND PREVIOUS SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO KENYA HAD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS OFFERED TO PROVIDE ARMS TO KENYA, BUT KENYANS HAD REJECTED THESE OFFERS BECAUSE THEY WERE CONVINCED SOVIET ARMS WOULD BE OF INFERIOR QUALITY AND THAT ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET ARMS WOULD MAKE KENYA HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON USSR WITH CONCOMITANT DANGER OF SOVIET INFLUENCE OVER KENYAN AFFAIRS. DCM THEN ASKED WHETHER KENYAN MISSION HEADED BY VICE PRESIDENT MOI WHICH WENT TO IRAN EARLIER THIS WEEK MIGHT NOT OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHICH COULD BE USED TO DEFRAY NECESSARY DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AS WELL AS FOR OTHER PURPOSES. KIEREINI EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THIS WOULD BE OUTCOME OF MISSION, BUT DID SAY THAT PRESIDENT KENYATTA HAD EARLIER WANTED KIEREINI TO BE MEMBER OF MISSION, PRESUMABLY INDICATING KENYANS HAD SOME HOPES THAT MISSION COULD ALSO SERVE MILITARY PURPOSE. (WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY TEHRAN CAN OBTAIN ON SUBSTANCE THESE KENYAN-IRANIAN TALKS.)

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5. SPEAKING SOMEWHAT PHILOSOPHICALLY, KIEREINI POINTED AT MAP OF AFRICA AND SAID IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT IT SHOULD BE IN INTEREST OF WEST AND UNITED STATES TO HELP PRESERVE "ISLAND" OF MODERATION REPRESENTED BY KENYA AND ETHIOPIA IN AN EASTERN AFRICA WHICH IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY ORIENTED TOWARD COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. WHILE TOO EARLY TO MAKE PREDICTIONS, HE SAID MOZAMBIQUE MAY ALSO SUCCUMB TO "EASTERN" INFLUENCE. ON MORE OPTIMISTIC NOTE HE ADDED THAT WE SHOULD NOT "WRITE OFF" UGANDA INASMUCH AS CURRENT UGANDAN THREAT TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN AREA STEMS EXCLUSIVELY FROM GENERAL AMIN'S ERRATIC LEADERSHIP AND HIS PERSONAL PREDILECTION FOR OBTAINING SOPHISTICATED ARMS. ONCE AMIN IS GONE -- WHICH IS ONLY MATTER OF TIME -- KIEREINI OPINED THAT STABLE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT COULD BE FORMED BY CAPABLE UGANDANS NOW LIVING OUTSIDE OF UGANDA, (THIS RATHER OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF UGANDAN SITUATION BY SENIOR KENYAN OFFICIAL IS IN MARKED CONTRAST WITH EARLIER LINE CONSISTENTLY TAKEN WITH US BY GOK OFFICIALS THAT GOK PERCEIVED NO BETTER ALTERNATIVES TO AMIN AND THAT KENYATTA WAS RESIGNED TO CONTINUING TO DEAL WITH HIM INDEFINITELY.)

6. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: GIVEN VERY MODEST LEVEL OF KENYA'S ARMAMENT IN COMPARISON WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, WE DOUBT THAT PROJECTED KENYAN ARMS ACQUISITION WILL SET OFF NEW ARMS SPIRAL IN EASTERN AFRICA. IN FACT, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT MODERATE BUILDUP OF KENYAN ARMED FORCES TO REDRESS ARMS IMBALANCE WITH NEIGHBORS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO REGIONAL STABILITY.

WHILE WE WOULD HOPE THAT HIGH PRIORITY UK STILL ATTACHES TO ITS INTERESTS IN KENYA WILL INDUCE UK GOVERNMENT TO BE REASONABLY FORTHCOMING ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO KENYA, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DO OUR BIT TO HELP KENYA MILITARILY IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN KENYA AS WELL AS CONTINUED US NAVY ACCESS TO PORT OF MOMBASA. ACCORDINGLY, I RECOMMEND PROMPT DEPARTMENT ACTION TO OBTAIN PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION MAKING KENYA ELIGIBLE FOR FMS CASH SALES. THIS WOULD AT LEAST ENABLE US TO BE RESPONSIVE TO KENYAN MILITARY TRAINING NEEDS AS WELL AS TO ANY POSSIBLE REQUESTS TO PURCHASE REASONABLE QUANTITIES OF US ARMS ON CASH BASIS IN EVENT KENYANS MANAGE TO OBTAIN FINANCING FROM OTHER SOURCES. IN ADDITION I URGE (PER MY LETTER OF AUGUST 8, 1974 TO AF/E DIRECTOR COOTE) THAT PRIORITY CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO NSSM-TYPE STUDY OF CURRENT POLITICO-

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MILITARY SITUATION IN EASTERN AFRICA (ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA, UGANDA, KENYA AND TANZANIA) WITH VIEW TO DETERMINING EXTENT TO WHICH US INTERESTS INVOLVED AND WHAT POLICIES WE MIGHT APPROPRIATELY PURSUE. AMONG OTHER THINGS STUDY SHOULD -- NOTWITHSTANDING CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS -- CONSIDER WHETHER IT WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE (MAP GRANT OR FMS CREDIT) TO KENYA.
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